



# Join Us for Free, Fun Programs!

## Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

# AUGUST ~ 2011

### REGISTRATION

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753 to register. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather. Visit us on the web for more information: <http://parkerriver.fws.gov> or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

### **“Behind the Scenes” Refuge Tour**

***Held on three Saturdays, August 13, 20 & 27 from 9:30 am to noon AND***

***Held on four Sundays, August 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 1:00 to 3:30 pm***

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants will visit areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided 2.5 hour program is most appropriate for adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the refuge visitor center. Each session is limited to 10 participants. *Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited.*

### **Tide Pool Discoveries**

***Held on several dates: Thursday, August 4 at 9:30 am; Friday, August 5 at 10:00 am; Monday, August 8 at 1:00 pm; Wednesday, August 10 at 3:00 pm; Friday, August 19 at 9:30 am; Tuesday, August 23 at 1:00 pm; and Thursday, August 25 at 2:30 pm.***

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on session. Appropriate for children age 4 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is 90 minutes long, allowing time for travel to and from the beach. Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station at the refuge’s Lot 1. *Advanced registration is required.*

## **Bird Migration at Parker River NWR**

***Date: Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>***

***Time: 7:00am-10:00am***

***Meeting location: On the Deck of the Visitor Contact Station @ Parking Lot #1***

Plum Island is one of the finest places for viewing birds during fall migration. Many bird species are moving south along the coast. The extensive mudflats on Plum Island, the salt marshes, the salt pannes & the pools are excellent feeding areas & roosting sites for these migrants. Join refuge volunteer Sue McGrath for a birding program focused on the importance of the Refuge during bird migration.

*Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited.*

## **Drawing Wildflowers**

***Date: August 4<sup>th</sup> Time: 9-12***

***Meeting location: Refuge Visitor Center***

This program is designated for adults in order to learn some basic techniques for sketching wildflowers outdoors in their habitat. Whether you want to keep a garden journal, a travel log or a journal of nature's events in your own neighborhood, this workshop is for you. We'll begin indoors, and then, weather permitting we'll head outdoors to find some flowers in bloom! Be sure to bring a 9 X 12" or larger sketchpad (newsprint pads are not recommended), drawing pencils (6B, 3B F and 2H are suggested), but anything you are comfortable sketching with is great), a white eraser (the General's Tri-tip eraser or the Mars White plastic eraser are both recommended) and also a kneaded eraser.

No prior drawing experience is necessary.

*Advance registration and fee is required for this program, as enrollment is limited.*

*To register, please contact the instructor of this program directly:*

*Sandy McDermott: Artist/Instructor*

[www.birchtreestudioart.com](http://www.birchtreestudioart.com)

(603)772-0761

## **Field Sketching: Drawing Birds**

***Date: August 24<sup>th</sup> Time: 9-12***

***Meeting location: Refuge Visitor Center***

Drawing live animals of any type can be a very challenging subject. Birds, especially, are constantly moving. How does one attempt to render them? Come to this workshop and learn how to combine fast sketching with quick observation! We'll render birds in flight, feeding, hopping or walking; whatever it is they do that makes us want to watch them. Observation is the key to drawing animals. You will also learn how to focus on parts of a bird first, rather than the whole portrait. Basic avian anatomy will be discussed. Be sure to bring with you a 9 X 12" or larger sketchpad (newsprint pads are not recommended), drawing pencils (4B, 2B, F and 2H are recommended), a black permanent or felt-tipped pen, a white eraser and a kneaded eraser. No prior drawing experience is necessary.

*Advance registration and fee is required for this program, as enrollment is limited.*

*To register, please contact the instructor of this program directly:*

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